

2-11-2013

Chairman and members of the committee: (Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee)

My name is Todd Pennington, LMT (OR Lic # 3833). I got my massage license in April 1992 and have had my own private practice since that time. Since November 2010 I have volunteered with the Oregon Massage Board.

I am speaking as a private Licensed Massage Therapist to Senate Bill 110 - Massage Facilities Permits.

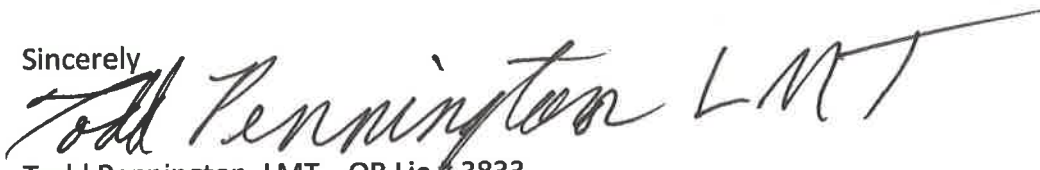
A few years ago my wife and I noticed advertising that made us very concerned about whether the massage being offered was legal. We took pictures of the advertising on the roof of the building. Soon thereafter I had need to go to the OBMT office and showed the pictures to some of the staff. They were very interested in them. The site was not legal. After months I got notice that the case had been finished. What I have found out by working with the OBMT is that in this type of case, all that can be done is to legally go after the one doing massage and that nothing can be done against the operator of the facility. This person doing massage was not in their own facility, but in someone else's facility. In my opinion the owner is as much a problem as the worker. The worker needs to be attended to by the OBMT, but to really prevent the problem from reoccurring at that site, the owner needs to make the site comply with all the regulations concerning massage.

We have laws and rules for a reason. All massage therapists suffer when massage makes the wrong kind of headlines. I expect to have a new fee for a site license to be added to my list of fees. I will gladly pay it, if it means that the OBMT has a means of giving the massage therapist leverage when working in a massage clinic to help keep the site following the regulations. If a massage clinic or chain says that \$50 a biennium for inspection to help keep all of massage compliant with regulations then maybe they are ones that need to be visited by an inspector. Personally I welcome an inspector to come at any time.

On occasion when I happen to meet or talk with a massager therapist I talk about this topic. Each LMT has been very concerned about wanting to keep the profession following the regulations. They want to protect an LMT when they need to tell a clinic that rules do need to be followed.

Please pass this bill in as close as possible in the language as it was submitted.

Sincerely



Todd Pennington, LMT OR Lic # 3833

Pennington Massage Clinic
10175 SW Barbur Blvd. Suite 210
Portland OR 97219
503-244-4427